

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1042

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Barbara H. Daush on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, this body takes great pleasure in recognizing educators who contribute to society in numerous ways and serve as beacons of faithful service in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such distinguished educator is Barbara H. Daush, O.P.A., who has served with distinction as president of St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School in Memphis since 1994; and

WHEREAS, St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School was founded in 1851 and provides a college-preparatory program for girls 2K-12 and boys 2K-8; sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Peace, St. Agnes-St. Dominic is the oldest continuously operating school in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during Barbara Daush's twenty-six-year tenure as president at St. Agnes-St. Dominic, enrollment has grown significantly, and the campus has been reinvented through two major campaigns; the first in 1997-1999 raised nine million dollars for capital improvements, and the second in 2006-2010 raised twenty million dollars for both capital improvements and endowment, yielding three new buildings, the renovation of three existing buildings, re-purposed existing spaces, new playing fields and playgrounds, and a pedestrian campus; and

WHEREAS, President Daush has worked with purpose and commitment to significantly improve the academic, athletic, and fine arts programs and to increase the school's endowment from less than \$70,000 in 1994 to over \$5.6 million today; and

WHEREAS, President Daush counts as her most significant accomplishment the preservation of the mission and purpose of the Dominican Sisters who founded the school in 1851 upon the Four Pillars of Dominican Charism: Study, Prayer, Community, and Service; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, the school remains devoted to teaching and learning excellence, diligently imparting the expectation upon its graduates that they will become leaders who will make the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, President Daush teaches her students to serve the Memphis community by scheduling “Days of Caring” in both the Junior High School and Upper School, during which time every student and faculty member goes out into the community to support ministries that serve the underprivileged and disenfranchised; and

WHEREAS, the Lower School students are also involved in service by providing Christmas presents to the Jubilee School students, collecting canned foods for the Food Pantry, and donating their allowance every week for “The Emily Fund,” which supports St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic’s adopted sister school in Zimbabwe; and

WHEREAS, President Daush has also presided over the development of a robust athletics program; St. Agnes-St. Dominic has won the Best of Preps Female Division Trophy three consecutive years, a feat no other independent school has ever accomplished; and

WHEREAS, St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School was recognized by *The Commercial Appeal* as the “Best Private School in Memphis” in 2013, 2014, and 2015 and honored as the “Top Workplace” in 2014 as voted by the employees; these awards speak volumes about President Daush’s great heart, benevolent spirit, and leadership by example; and

WHEREAS, President Daush serves her profession as chair of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Independent Schools and a member of the Board of the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools, having formerly served as chair; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, President Daush has received the Blessed Mother Award from Ave Maria, the Martin de Porres Award from St. Peter Church, the Blessed Heart of Mary Award from the Diocese of Memphis, and the Distinguished Service Award for Administrators from the TSSAA; and

WHEREAS, she was named one of “50 Women Who Make a Difference” by *Memphis Magazine*, “A Superwoman in Business” by the *Memphis Business Journal*, and 2014 CEO of the Year by *Memphis Business Quarterly*; and

WHEREAS, President Daush gives back to her community and expresses her faith as a member of the Board of Directors for Madonna Learning Center, a member of the Advisory Board for St. Ann Catholic School, a Dominican Associate of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, Eucharistic minister at St. Louis Catholic Church, and a volunteer at Manna House; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Daush holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin and Classical Studies from The University of Mississippi and a Master of Arts degree in Guidance and Counseling and a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in English and Secondary Education from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, she is most grateful for the love, companionship, and support she shares with her husband of thirty-five years, Mike; their sons and daughters-in-law, Bobby and Julia and John and Lacey; and their precious grandchildren, Robert, Lizzie, and Luke; and

WHEREAS, having attained the pinnacle of her profession, President Daush is answering the tantalizing call of retirement; and

WHEREAS, her presence will most certainly be missed, and it is only proper that we commend her probity, acumen, and hard work as she departs St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Barbara H. Daush upon her illustrious career in Catholic education, thank her for her exemplary service as president of St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School, and wish her much continued success and happiness during her retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.